

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Factories of the Vitkovice Iron Works

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Vitkovice Iron Works, national corporation, includes the following six factories in the Moravska-Ostrava area:
- The Zofinske blast furnace in Ostrava is managed by Ing. Lovac, a Communist. His deputy is Rudolf Kravcik, a graduate of the technical school and a member of the Catholic Party. The plant employs 1,100 men, including about 110 officers.
 - The blast furnace near the management offices in Ostrava-Vitkovice employs 1,200 men, including about 120 officers.(1) The manager of the plant is Oldrich Zebrek, a Communist, who lives in Marianske Hory. The deputy manager is Frantisek Gorny, an ardent Communist and reported to be a member of the MVD; he has much influence with the factory militia. His address is Ostrava-Hulvaky Tumova, Third Street.
 - The new steelworks in Ostrava-Hulvaky employs about 3,000 workers and 300 officers and foremen.(2) Work is done in three shifts. The plant manager is Ing. Maly, a Communist, about 37 years old, tall, and married with three children. His address is Vitkovice, Ruda Trida. The deputy manager is Miroslav Kotala, a Communist, about 37 years old. He lives at Ostrava-Hulvaky, v kolonii.
 - The old steelworks in Ostrava-Vitkovice employs about 3,500 workers and 350 officers.(3) The manager is Ing. Vejs, a Communist, living at Vitkovice, Ruda Trida. The deputy manager and head of the works council is Ludvik Bandula, an ardent and dangerous Communist who has been politically instructed in the USSR. The deputy head of the works council is Ferdinand Harasim, a moderate Communist.
 - The old rolling mill in Ostrava-Hulvaky employs about 3,500 men working in two shifts, and 350 officers.(4) The manager of the plant is Ing. Trojan, a Communist. The head of the works council is Pavel Barycak, an ardent Communist, tall, address Ostrava-Hulvaky, U delnickoho domu.
 - The new rolling mill in Ostrava-Hulvaky employs about 4,000 men working in three shifts, and 400 officers.(5) The manager is Ing. Kravcik, 50 years old, a former member of the Catholic Party, but now a Communist. He lives in a villa in Hulvaky.

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The factory militia of the Vitkovice Iron Works is centrally controlled. About 60 percent of all the workers and officers of the Iron Works are members of the Communist Party, although only about 10 percent of them are active Communists.

2. Each of the blast furnace plants consists of four blast furnaces heated by coal gas from two coke ovens. There is a total of three coke ovens, one of which serves both blast furnace installations. Ore for all the furnaces is supplied largely from the USSR; a smaller amount of high grade ore comes from Sweden. Crude iron produced in the furnaces is shipped to the Vitkovice steel works and foundries. Some iron is supplied by the furnaces to other foundries in Czechoslovakia for manufacture of armaments. Because the linings of the blast furnaces were designed for use in the production of iron from high grade Swedish ore, the use of inferior Russian ore has caused some difficulties in production. Monthly production of the Zofinske blast furnaces is 60,000 tons; that of the other blast furnaces is 86,000 tons. In both cases production would be increased by as much as 35 percent if Swedish ore were used. All the blast furnaces can be interrupted and the equipment damaged by closing the main valves in the gas lines from the coke ovens to the blast furnaces, thus cooling the furnaces and causing the molten iron to solidify, or by cutting the water supply from Ostravice and Cira.
3. Each of the steelworks consists of four open hearth furnaces; the new steelworks has a monthly capacity of 70,000 tons, the old steelworks produces 56,000 tons per month. Each steelworks includes a foundry which produces wheels for locomotives and tanks, gun barrels, ships' screws, aerial bomb casings, etc. The new steelworks has attached to it two lime kilns. Most of the products of both works are shipped to the USSR, with smaller amounts for Poland, Rumania and Hungary. Almost none of the production is for domestic consumption. The old steelworks can be crippled by cutting the gas pipes leading to the open hearth furnaces or by interrupting the water supply from Ostravice and Cira. The new steelworks can be crippled by destroying the gas tank in Ostrava-Vitkovice (6) or by cutting the 22,000 volt electric line, most accessible at Ostrava-Hulvaky, Zelezarenska Street.
4. The new rolling mill produces strap steel, flat coil springs, cold rolled steel plate, angle iron and tubular steel for use in the automobile and armaments industries on a cold rolling mill. It produces all types of sheet steel, sheet iron and armor plate on a plate rolling mill, and rails and switches on a rails rolling mill. The old rolling mill produces angle iron, construction steel and tubular steel on a fine rolling mill and traverses, cranes, steel poles and other large structural steel items on a coarse rolling mill. It also has a plate rolling mill. The major part of production is for the USSR and the satellite countries. Switches and rails are produced exclusively for the USSR. Tubular steel is consumed domestically, primarily in the armaments industry.

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- Attachments:
- I Plan of Zofinske blast furnaces with legend.
 - II Plan of the blast furnaces near management with legend.
 - III Plan of the New Steelworks with legend.
 - IV Plan of the Old Steelworks with legend.
 - V Plan of the Old Rolling Mill with legend.
 - VI Plan of the New Rolling Mill with legend.

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